



# Instructional Technology Newsline

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Volume 4 Number 3

January, 2003

## Instructional Technology Staff (573) 751-8247

[http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/  
newsletters](http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters)

-  [Deborah S. Sutton](#), Director
-  [Claranne Vogel](#), Supervisor
-  [Lisa Walters](#), Library Media and  
Technology Consultant
-  [Rosalyn Wieberg](#), Supervisor
-  [Shirley Brumley](#), Administrative Assistant

## *In This Issue . . .*

-  Instructional Technology Update
-  Show-Me TechKnowledge 2003
-  MOREnet Trainers on the Road Again—  
Regional Training Sites Scheduled
-  Register Now for the Midwest Education  
Technology Conference
-  NCLB Administrators Conference
-  Rural Educators and Collaborators: A Regional  
Dialogue on the Status and Future of I-TV and  
Distance Learning in Missouri
-  METPA Spring Technology Forum
-  Education Plus Network Upgrades Equipment
-  Missouri Schools and Programs in the News
-  Copyright Question of the Month
-  Mark Your Calendar
-  Upcoming 2002 Conferences
-  From the Mailbag
-  Internet Sites of Interest

## Instructional Technology Update

*In December, Monica Beglau and I participated in a National Leadership Institute on Evaluation, sponsored by the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA). As a member of a task force on common data elements, I served on that work group. Monica, the instructional leader of the eMINTS program, was invited to serve as an expert for the work group addressing*

*scientifically based research (SBR). The other work groups addressed the national education technology plan, evaluating effective teaching and learning, and technology literacy assessment.*

*Monica and I came back with good ideas and a sense of validation of what we are doing and have accomplished in the state. In his plenary session presentation, John Bailey (the DOE technology director) cited eMINTS as an example of a technology program that is producing student achievement results and which meets SBR requirements. In the SBR work group, talk and questions about the eMINTS program dominated much of the discussion. Work accomplished in the common data elements group parallels and builds on our Census of Technology and other data collection and reporting tools. Reports from the other groups indicate that the new Missouri education technology strategic plan is on target, that our hallmarks of an effective eMINTS classroom fit with national classroom observation and assessment strategies.*

*It is always gratifying to see hard work pay off and be recognized or rewarded. It is especially enjoyable in these days of doom and gloom being cast by state budget woes. Know that Monica and I give credit to a cast of thousands within the state who helped plan and implement effective programs that result in the noted accomplishments. We thank you and look forward to a new year and your continued support and good work. –Deb*

### **FY03 Technology Grants**

#### ***Governor to announce further appropriation withholdings for FY03***

In January, Governor Holden will announce further withholdings aimed at balancing the current year's state budget. This latest round of reductions affects the technology acquisition grant (TAG) program. A letter detailing the changes will be distributed in the January 8, 2003, consolidated mailing to school administrators. A copy of the letter will also be posted on the Instructional Technology website.

Specifically, the *Department was asked to cut \$279,794 from the current TAG budget.* District staff will recall that the funding level of approved TAG grants has been unstable since the beginning of the school year. In August, program staff projected a 77 percent reimbursement rate. This was lowered to just under 75 percent in October, after the first round of withholdings had been applied to the appropriation. This most recent reduction will result in a 71.8 percent reimbursement rate.

Note that the online TAG web applications will continue to show approved amounts established last spring. Because of budget uncertainties this year, Instructional Technology asked that districts apply for all of the funds, but cautioned them to not spend more than 70% of their approved amounts, until we had a better estimate of the final budget. Districts can multiply the approved grant amount by .718 to calculate the amount the Department expects to be able to pay, *based on the most recent budget.*

#### **No TAG payments in January**

With limitations in how much of the appropriation a program can access at any time and the recent budget reduction, the Department will not issue a TAG payment in January 2003.

### **District Technology Plans**

#### **Countdown to March 31, 2003 deadline**

As reported in previous months, and because of new requirements set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act, over 400 Missouri school districts and charter schools must submit technology plans for state approval this spring. Districts can access technology planning assistance resources and the current scoring guide on the web at

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrotech/techplan/techplan.htm>.

#### Workshop presentations posted online

The presentation slides from each of the "Writing a School Technology Plan" workshops, conducted in November and co-sponsored by the Missouri Educational Technology Professionals Association (METPA), are on the web at

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/presentations/index.htm>. IT staff wish to express their gratitude to the following "tech experts": Doug Allen, Cindy Boone, Becky Chancellor, Patsy Craghead, Melanie Dillard, David Dillard, Susie Graham, Becky Hartzell, Marcia Haskin, David Hollingshead, Traci Ingram, Everett Loughridge, Judy Manhatton, Linda Pruett, Kathy Reifschneider, Kevin Roberson, John Waite, and Cindy Wells.

#### Technical assistance sessions available

METPA is also sponsoring technical assistance sessions. The first session will be held in Jefferson City on January 9, 2003, from 12:00 to 4:00, in Room 490 of the Truman State Office Building. Districts can bring drafts of their technology plans for peer reviews. METPA officers and volunteers will help determine whether the drafts are on track and provide technical assistance. No registration is necessary. See

[http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/directions\\_to\\_truman\\_state\\_offic.htm](http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/directions_to_truman_state_offic.htm) for driving and parking directions.

While details are not yet finalized, METPA plans to provide another technical assistance session at the MOREnet spring conference. Although the conference occurs close to the deadline, this will provide districts with another opportunity to have tech plans reviewed by peers before the plans are submitted to the Department for state approval. Look for specific details in the February issue of Newline and in the conference registration materials.

#### **New State Internet Filtering Law**

A new state Internet filtering law goes into effect January 2003. The Missouri General Assembly in 2002 passed HB 1402 that addresses public access to school computers and requires schools to install filtering software or adopt a safety policy prohibiting access to information that is pornographic. The legislation further requires that the Department prepare a rule regarding the implementation of the legislation. In October, the State Board of Education authorized publication of a notice of rulemaking to adopt Rule 5 CSR 50-380.020, Internet Filtering, in the Missouri Register and ruled that the proposed rule is necessary to carry out purposes of Sections 161.092 and 182.827, RSMo. As the federal 2002 Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) had previously outlined standards that require schools to install filtering software and is already in effect for schools, CIPA is incorporated by reference and is made part of the state rule.

#### **USF E-rate Program**

##### Year 2002 (Year 5) Funding

The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) issued the 19<sup>th</sup> wave of letters for Year 2002 on December 30, 2002. Funding Year 2002 of the E-rate program provides support for services delivered July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003. Wave 19 committed over \$76.95 million in 157 letters to school and library applicants. The funding associated with this wave includes funding for PRIORITY ONE (telecommunications services and Internet access) services and PRIORITY TWO (internal connections) at the 90% discount level. To date, the SLD has committed nearly \$1.64 billion in 28,058 letters for Year 2002. Additional waves will be issued every other week until the process is complete. Visit <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/y5/> for more information on Year 2002 funding commitments.

##### Year 2003 Applications

The Form 471 application-filing window opened on November 4, 2002 *and will close on February 6, 2003 at 11:59 PM EST*. For more information on Year 2003, visit

<http://www.sl.universalservice.org/>. The SLD website provides important reminders to assist with the application process. Each topic is linked to an HTML document that provides detailed information on that topic.



## **Show-Me TechKnowledge 2003**

--Submitted by Bobbi Weekley, 2003 Show-Me TechKnowledge Chairperson

The second annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day will be held on February 26, 2003 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the Capitol Rotunda on the third floor in Jefferson City. This is an opportunity for educators to showcase learning through technology to invited Missouri legislators, students, parents and visitors.

Fourteen schools from across the state will be chosen to display outstanding technology projects currently being used in Missouri classrooms to enhance learning and improve student achievement. A cross section of districts and technology uses is being sought. Contact [Bobbi Weekley @ computerhelp@ktis.net](mailto:BobbiWeekley@computerhelp@ktis.net) for more information about this year's event.



## **MOREnet Trainers on the Road Again — Regional Training Sites Scheduled**

--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet

MOREnet trainers will hit the road for the next few months to present training sessions around the state. In a new strategy to meet customers' needs, MOREnet has scheduled multiple events in each location on sequential days. In some locations, events will be held during the day; in others, they will be held in the evening.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
St. Louis	Jan. 22-23
Winston	Jan. 28-29
Gallatin	Jan. 30-31
Kirksville	Feb. 3-6
Dora	Feb. 10-13
Bernie	Feb. 17-20
Kansas City	Mar. 4-5
Fulton	Mar. 10-13
Mt. Vernon	Mar. 18-21

Two popular classes will be offered for the first time at regional training: Videoconferencing with Polycom and Introduction to PC Hardware. MOREnet offers a wide variety of training sessions for all technical abilities. Courses led by MOREnet trainers are free for all school staff members. Find detailed schedules, course descriptions and registration information at <http://www.more.net/training/>.

Individuals who wish to attend a MOREnet training session must register through one of their organization's designated MOREnet contacts. Find your contacts by using the link to Find My Contact, available from the K-12 Educators' Community page: <http://www.more.net/about/communities/k12educators01.html>.

To register, the MOREnet Contact should send an e-mail message to [training@more.net](mailto:training@more.net) with the following information:

- session date
- session topic
- organization name
- attendee's first and last names
- attendee's e-mail address

- attendee's work phone number
- attendee's home phone number
- any accessibility needs

For more information, visit <http://www.more.net/training/>, send e-mail to [training@more.net](mailto:training@more.net) or call (573) 884-7200.

### **Register Now for the Midwest Education Technology Conference**

--Submitted by Nancy George, METC Program Manager, Cooperating School Districts

[www.csd.org/metc2003](http://www.csd.org/metc2003)

Discover cutting-edge strategies for effectively integrating technology into every aspect of curriculum. Register now for the Midwest Education Technology Conference (METC), set for January 27-29 at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, MO. "Tessellate Technology: Putting It All Together" is the theme of this year's convention.

METC examines compelling topics for K-12 teachers, including digital learning and the latest in uses of technology in the curriculum. Listen to other teachers and tech specialists share their experiences.

Four keynote speakers are featured: Alan November, Jamie McKenzie, Meg Ormiston, and Richard Humphrey. Take advantage of two days of breakout sessions and a full day of pre-conference workshops. Two exhibit halls provide the opportunity to explore new software and the latest in technology equipment. The conference also promises great attendance prizes, including handheld computers.

For more information, contact Dorothy White at (314) 692-1250 or [dwhite@csd.org](mailto:dwhite@csd.org). For fast, easy registration, visit us online.

### **NCLB Administrators Conference**

--Submitted by Dorothy White, Conferences and Events Director, Cooperating School Districts

[www.csd.org](http://www.csd.org)

NCLB Administrators Conference on January 31, 2003 at the Sheraton Westport Hotel, 900 Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO.

8:30	Registration with a hot continental breakfast
9:00-10:00	No Child Left Behind Title I
10:15-11:00	No Child Left Behind Title II and Title V
11:15-12:00	Special Education
12:00-12:30	Additional Questions and Answers

Cost: \$105

To register contact Dorothy White at (314) 692-1250

### **Rural Educators and Collaborators: A Regional Dialogue on the Status and Future of I-TV and Distance Learning in Missouri**

The Rural School and Community Trust in conjunction with GreaterNET, MoDLA, MoROC, and MARE invite all interested K-12 administrators, technology coordinators, and others to attend any of eight regional dialogues around the state... "Rural Educators and Collaborators: A Regional Dialogue on the Status and Future of I-TV and Distance Learning in Missouri."

The format will bring together a 5-member panel at each regional meeting consisting of:

1. a regional telecommunications provider;
2. a technically knowledgeable I-TV equipment integrator;
3. a higher education representative involved in distance learning;
4. a GreaterNET representative; and
5. an I-TV-experienced rural school administrator.

The panel presentation will be followed by an opportunity for reactions, questions, input, and attitudes to be expressed by the invited rural school administrators, technical coordinators or others interested or involved in distance learning.

The purpose of the dialogue is to bring about, on a regional basis, some consensus around:

- What are the major problems or impediments which schools confront in implementing I-TV distance learning initiatives in their communities?
- How might those problems be overcome? What solutions have you found?
- What resources might be brought to bear to solve the identified problems?

The sites and dates for the Regional Dialogues are confirmed as follows:

**Bolivar - Jan 14, 2003**

**Maryville - Jan 21, 2003**

**Green City - Jan 22, 2003**

**Poplar Bluff - Jan 30, 2003**

**Linn-Feb. 4, 2003**

**Fayette-Feb. 5, 2003**

**Pleasant Hill-Feb. 11, 2003**

**Park Hills - Feb 18, 2003**

The outcome of the regional dialogues will be the summary publication of identified problems and recommended solutions/resources across the eight regions which will then be presented to key policymakers across the state.

Each meeting is planned for 10:30am - 12:30pm. Due to seating and lunch limitations, **a reservation is required. A confirmation with room location and parking instructions will be mailed** to those registered approximately 2 weeks before the event. Please return a copy of the reservation form to:

Vicki Hobbs, E-mail: [vhobbs@coin.org](mailto:vhobbs@coin.org), Phone: 573-445-4940, Fax/Voice Message: 573-446-0483

#### **RESERVATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Institution/Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will attend the Regional Dialogue at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please reserve lunch for me (A small cost may be charged to participants at some sites)

☐ Do NOT reserve lunch for me



#### **METPA Spring Technology Forum**

<http://www.metpa.org>

The Missouri Education Technology Professionals Association (METPA) announces a spring Technology Forum to be held at the Ike Skelton Training Center, Missouri National Guard Headquarters, Jefferson City, Missouri. Visit the web site for more details.

**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2003

**Time:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Topic:** *How to Fit a Size 12 Technology Plan Into a Size 6 Technology Budget*





## **Education Plus Network Upgrades Equipment**

*--Submitted by Nancy Steele, High School Principal, Putnam County R-1 Schools*

Education Plus Network (EPN) was established in 1992 as the first fiber optic distance learning network in Missouri providing two-way simultaneous classroom instruction. The boards of education of the original three schools, Green City R-I, Milan C-2, and Putnam County R-I, entered into a ten-year lease with Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company and Alltel Service Company. The Adair County R-I School District became a member of EPN in 1995.

The partnership between the school districts and the telephone companies has continued and evolved through these past ten years. The Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company personnel have actively sought ways of improving the current distance learning network. The main objective has been to provide EPN with access to the outside world by breaking the technology barrier of the closed cluster network.

Ray Ford, General Manager of Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company, suggested that the member schools of EPN apply for an USDA Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant. This \$500,000 grant would provide the four school districts with the necessary funds to upgrade the current classroom equipment. The telephone company also conveyed its commitment to the partnership by agreeing to fulfill the company's technology requirements.

The RUS distance learning and telemedicine grant components addressed need, rurality, innovativeness, and cost effectiveness. With the assistance of a grant writer, the EPN personnel wrote and submitted the grant last spring. Official notification was received October 30 that the EPN grant was among the 71 grants awarded for the 2002 fiscal year. The \$464,492 RUS grant also included \$96,000 EPN match and \$6021 TANDBERG match making the grant total \$566,513.

The RUS grant will allow EPN to install state-of-the-art distance learning technology in each of the four classrooms. Julie Swenson, applications Marketing director of TANDBERG states, "TANDBERG's Multi-Image Educator provides EPN the flexibility of utilizing multiple internal and external networks for maximum reach for their distance education program. EPN will now be able to take advantage of exciting functionality such as high-resolution images, internal multi-point capabilities and control of the video call and peripherals from one simple touch panel interface. Designed to enable a natural, collaborative learning environment, the TANDBERG Education Solution technology is transparent so that the instructors and students can focus on the curriculum. Built around the TANDBERG 6000 codec, the Multi-Image Educator includes two 60" rear LCD projection units, projection carts, camera and an intuitive color touch panel."

In addition to the TANDBERG Multi-Image Educator, each classroom will be equipped with a wireless laptop network, which will be used by the students and teachers for the electronic transmission of assignments. The grant funds will also provide desktop computers to meet the technological needs of students in other locations within the school districts.

EPN will be pleased to host visitors to view our new classrooms upon completion of the equipment installation in early January 2003. Contact Nancy Steele, EPN Coordinator, at [steelen@mail.putnam.k12.mo.us](mailto:steelen@mail.putnam.k12.mo.us) or (660) 947-3361, extension 306, for further information.



## **Missouri Schools and Programs in the News**

Popular Bluff R-I

Congratulations Pam Lowe! Pam's article Classroom Web Sites: Renovating the Classroom was featured in TechLearning.com in December. Pam is a FY00 eMINTS teacher from Poplar Bluff.

Her article is full of great ideas. Take a look!

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/WCE/archives/pamlowe2.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/pamlowe2.html)

#### Jefferson City

A lesson plan developed by Jeff Taggart, Simonsen Ninth Grade Center health teacher, was recently picked to appear on a physical education and health teacher web site. "Do You Realize What You're Eating?" asks students to choose three fast food meals and determine the total number of calories and the nutritional value of the meal, is shown on *PE Central*. The site assists teachers by giving them new ideas for their health and physical education classes. Congratulations Jeff!

#### Missouri eMINTS Program

An article by Monica Beglau on "Changing the Face of Education in Missouri" is featured in the Winter 2003 quarterly issue of the New Horizons for Learning Online Journal. The article is online at <http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/technology/beglau.htm>

#### Cooperating School Districts

Congratulations to Martha Bogart and Ruth Litman-Block for achieving the outstanding semifinalist award for the Ed Tech Leaders of the Year! *Semifinalist of the Ed Tech Leaders of the Year 2002*

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/TL/2002/12/etloy.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/TL/2002/12/etloy.html) You can contact Martha and Ruth at Cooperating School District of Greater St. Louis. <http://www.csd.org/>



### Copyright Question of the Month

- Q.** May an educator (e.g., administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others add an off-air tape to the library's permanent videotape collection? (Off-air channels include ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, and sometimes FOX. These channels **could be** received via a rabbit ears antenna or house antenna (even if they are received via satellite or cable).
- A. No** A program may be held in the library for use according to the rights granted by the broadcast network but should not be added as part of the library's permanent collection unless extended rights are available.

Note: If extended rights have not been secured, the off-air tape must be erased on the 46<sup>th</sup> day.



### Mark Your Calendar

#### Happy New Year 2003!

January 3	Newsline published
9	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm)
	Governor's Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
9	Technology Plan Writing Technical Assistance (Noon-4 pm)
	Harry S Truman Building, Room 490, Jefferson City, MO
20	Martin Luther King's Birthday—State Holiday
25	Newsline articles due
February 1	Newsline published
12	Lincoln's Birthday—State Holiday



13	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm) Governor's Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
17	President's Day—State Holiday
19	METPA Spring Forum " <i>How To Fit a Size 12 Technology Plan Into a Size 6 Budget</i> " (9:30am -12:30 pm) Ike Skelton Center, Jefferson City, MO
25	Newsline articles due
26	Second Annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day Third Floor Capitol Rotunda, Jefferson City, MO



## Upcoming 2003 Conferences

January 27-29	Midwest Education Technology Conference (METC) Millennium Hotel, St. Louis, MO <a href="http://www.csd.org/metc2003">http://www.csd.org/metc2003</a>
January 27-29	Texas Administrators' Midwinter Conference Austin, TX <a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/midwinter/03/ca/index.html">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/midwinter/03/ca/index.html</a>
January 31	NCLB Administrators Conference Sheraton Westport Hotel 900 Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO <a href="http://www.csd.org">www.csd.org</a>
February 3-5	Ohio SchoolNet Technology Conference 2003 Columbus, Ohio <a href="http://www.osn.state.oh.us">http://www.osn.state.oh.us</a>
February 4-6	2003 Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) Orlando, FLA <a href="http://www.fetc.org/fetc2003/index.asp">http://www.fetc.org/fetc2003/index.asp</a>
February 19-21	New Technologies in Training and Technical skills Orlando, Florida <a href="http://www.salt.org">http://www.salt.org</a>
February 20-23	American Association of School Administrators: 2003 Annual Conference New Orleans, LA <a href="http://www.aasa.org/nce_2003/index.asp">http://www.aasa.org/nce_2003/index.asp</a>
February 20-22	Interface A—Grades K-6 Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO <a href="http://www.muconf.missouri.edu/interface">www.muconf.missouri.edu/interface</a>
February 23-25	Interface B—Grades 7-12 Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO <a href="http://www.muconf.missouri.edu/interface">www.muconf.missouri.edu/interface</a>
February 25-27	K-12 School Networking Conference: Achievement, Assessment & Accountability Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA <a href="http://www.k12schoolnetworking.org/">http://www.k12schoolnetworking.org/</a>
March 4-5	RCET-SW Conference University Plaza, Springfield, MO <a href="http://www.rcet.net">www.rcet.net</a>
March 13-15	International Technology Education Association: 65th Annual Conference Nashville, TN <a href="http://www.iteawww.org/D.html">http://www.iteawww.org/D.html</a>
March 17-19	Microcomputers in Education Conference Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona <a href="http://mec.asu.edu">http://mec.asu.edu</a>

March 19-20	MOREnet Spring Technical Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO Missouri Research and Education Network
March 19-20	HELIX (Higher Education Learning & Information eXchange) Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO MERC (Missouri Education & Research Consortium)
June 30-July 2	NECC Seattle, WA
October 19-21	Missouri Educational Technology Conference 2003 Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Missouri Research and Education Network



## From the Mailbag

### Tool Factory Hands-On Training Lab—METC Schedule

<http://www.cds.org/> or [heather@toolfactory.com](mailto:heather@toolfactory.com)

Monday, January 27th, 2003 - Pre-conference

All Day Seminar - Digital Camera Workshop and Building Projects Using an Office Suite

Free software for each attendee: *Tool Factory Workshop*, retail priced \$199

Tuesday, January 28th, 2003

10:00-10:50 Digital Camera Workshop

11:00-11:50 Digital Camera Projects - Free copy of *Tool Factory Workshop*, \$199

2:00-2:50 Building Websites - Free copy of *MultiMedia Lab V*, \$99

3:00-3:50 Whole Class Teaching Tool - Free copy of one *Whole Class Tool*, \$59

Wednesday, January 29th, 2003

10:00-10:50 Using an Office Suite in Elementary and Special Ed- Free copy of *Tool Factory Workshop*, \$199

11:00-11:50 Building Websites - Free copy of *MultiMedia Lab V*, \$99

2:00-2:50 Electronic Student Portfolios - Free copy of *MultiMedia Lab V*, \$99

3:00-3:50 Building a School Newspaper - Free copy of *Tool Factory Workshop*, \$199

### MarcoGram For Educators, Principals and Teacher-Trainers

<http://www.marcopolo-education.org>

#### Understanding Patterns

Patterns are created when items are organized in a coherent fashion. Patterns are found not only in art, poetry and clothing, but also in the way people play the stock market, travel to work or get ready for school. This month, the MarcoGram features lessons that explore the development of patterns, whether it's combining sounds to create pleasing music, or providing scientists with an explanation of the past to prepare for the future. Use the warm-up activities below to encourage your students to locate and identify patterns, then scroll down for links to more lessons and resources to use in your classroom. The MarcoGram is created in HTML. Please view the online version at <http://www.marcopolo-education.org/marcograms/12-20-02.html>

Have you seen these? Catch up with the MarcoGram

December 2002: [Reading: It Takes You Places](#)

<http://www.marcopolo-education.org/marcograms/11-25-02.html>

November 2002: [Double Take: There Are \(At Least\) Two Sides to Every Story](#)

<http://www.marcopolo-education.org/marcograms/10-25-02.html>

October 2002: [Money Matters: Become a Financial Wizard](#)

<http://www.marcopolo-education.org/marcograms/9-25-02.html>

#### SUBSCRIBE

If you're not already a subscriber and would like to receive the next issue of the MarcoGram by e-mail, please send a blank message to [MarcoGram-Subscribe@marcopoloinfo.com](mailto:MarcoGram-Subscribe@marcopoloinfo.com)  
<mailto:MarcoGram-Subscribe@marcopoloinfo.com?subject=Subscribe>

#### Looking Into the New Year

[http://www.learner.org/about/news/news\\_profdev.html](http://www.learner.org/about/news/news_profdev.html)

Many states continue to experience cuts to their education budgets. The Annenberg/CPB Channel remains a resource for high quality professional development for K-12 teachers, in all disciplines, and at no cost. Twenty-seven workshops and courses will be offered during the Spring season (January-June, 2003). See the full listing of offerings on our website. Register online or call us at 1-800-LEARNER.

#### Supertechnews (Student Information Systems)

<http://www.blegroup.co/supertechnews/dec02.htm>

This issue includes the following:

- A guide to the functionality of the new web based SIS students and advice on what to watch for when purchasing one.
- A discussion of SIF (Schools Interoperability Framework) why it doesn't work well enough yet and what has to happen to improve it.
- A description of eight mostly web-based SIS systems-functionality and pricing
- An interview with a leading practitioner, Roy Herrold of the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit in Pennsylvania, who is pioneering SIF efforts.

#### From Blue Web'n

H.I.P. Pocket Change: US Mint's Site for Kids

<http://usmint.gov/kids/>

The H.I.P. Pocket Change (HPC) Web site was launched in July 1999 by the U.S. Mint. The History In Your Pocket (H.I.P.) Pocket Change site showcases the connection between this country's coins and its people. Through games, stories, and other engaging activities, the site brings to life both the extraordinary individuals who appear on U.S. coinage and the generations of citizens who've used this pocket change. Extensive teacher resources available.

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

Content Area: Community Interest (Government/Politics), History & Social Studies (Government) [Dewey #320]

Application type: Web Based Activities

#### Through the Lens of Time: Images of African Americans from the Cook Collection of Photographs

<http://www.library.vcu.edu/jbc/speccoll/cook/>

The photographs of African Americans in this collection provide an interesting combination of examples of African American life and the white photographers' perceptions of that life, often at least tinged by stereotypes. These 300 photographs of African American life in turn-of-the-century Central Virginia are valuable both as conveyers of unique historical information and as examples of the nascent art of photography. From the VCU Libraries, Special Collections and Archives. If you've ever searched other photographic libraries online, you'll really appreciate the ease of this one!

Grade Level: Early Childhood (K-2), Elementary, Middle School, High School, College, Adult/Professional

Content Area: Arts (Visual Arts), History & Social Studies (Geography & Cultures) [Dewey #900]

Application Type: Other Resources

#### Multiflyer

<http://www.gdbdp.com/multiflyer>

Multiflyer is a fun online game developed to help anyone who is learning multiplication tables. It takes place in space and even sprinkles in learning about the planets. You can play it online, or register and receive a full downloadable version as well as downloadable interactive support tools. The game lets you figure out the answers, or you can turn off the table and wing it on your own. Simple, fun diversion to help reinforce multiplication skills.

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School  
Content Area: Mathematics (Arithmetic) [Dewey #510]  
Application Type: Web Based Activities

#### ExploraVision

<http://www.exploravision@nsta.org>

Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) invite K-12 students to take part in ExploraVision, one of the largest student science competitions in North America. Now in its eleventh winning year, the purpose of the competition is to encourage students to create and explore a vision of a future technology. The entry deadline is February 4, 2003. Students in teams of two, three, or four, along with a team coach, select a current technology, research its history, and explore a new use for the technology and what it could be like twenty years from now. Twenty-four regional teams will be chosen as semi-finalists who will then create Web sites to showcase their ideas. Next, eight finalist teams will be selected and invited to Washington, D.C. for the ExploraVision Awards weekend.

#### Research Finds Positive Effects for Handhelds

<http://www.palmgrants.sri.com>

SRI International, an independent research institution, has released the final results of the first large-scale study of the use of handheld computers in more than 100 elementary and secondary classrooms across the United States. Nearly 90% of the teachers said they found the handhelds to be an effective instructional tool.

Source: SRI International

#### Internet In The Air

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/12/08/travel/08rep.html>

If you suffer Internet withdrawal pains when you fly, help is on the way. By the end of the year, 100 domestic airplanes will offer JetConnect, an Internet service including news, weather, games and destination information. High-speed e-mail will be added later.

Source: The New York Times

#### Awards of Excellence 2002

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/TL/2002/12/awards.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/TL/2002/12/awards.html)

Teaching and Learning is honored to present this year's winning software and Web sites.

#### Ed Tech Leaders of the Year 2002

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/TL/2002/12/etloy.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/TL/2002/12/etloy.html)

The teachers, technology specialists, and administrators profiled here represent the best of what can be done with technology and a dedicated educator.

#### Technology and Students with Special Needs

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/WCE/archives/assistbb.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/assistbb.html)

By learning about assistive devices and other technology available, professional developers can help point to appropriate resources to support student learning and communicating. Helping teachers with bridging technology and learning for students with physical limitations starts with knowing what works.

#### Understanding Disabilities and Special Education

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/WCE/archives/cirishwt.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/cirishwt.html)

The Web sites in this Web Tour were designed to provide information, assistance, and advocacy to persons with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who provide services for them. There is a wealth of information, including research articles, fact sheets, case law, chats, stories, and teaching strategies, available at these sites.



## Internet Sites of Interest

### No Child Left Behind

<http://www.nochildleftbehind.gov>

Here on the official website you can find answers to your questions about the new education law signed by President Bush on January 8, 2002.

### Staying Safe Online

[http://www.staysafeonline.info/cybersmart/cybersmart\\_elementary.adp](http://www.staysafeonline.info/cybersmart/cybersmart_elementary.adp)

Internet Safety Tips for Elementary School Students

### Top Ten Cyber Security Tips for Teens, Teachers and Families

[http://www.staysafeonline.info/cybersmart/cybersmart\\_teen.s.adp](http://www.staysafeonline.info/cybersmart/cybersmart_teen.s.adp)

Cyber Smart Curriculum - free curriculum to empower students to use the Internet safely, responsibly and effectively:

<http://www.cybersmartcurriculum.org/home/>

### Winter

#### Weather Watch: Winter Storms

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/wwatch/winter/index.htm>

#### WS Winter Weather Safety and Awareness

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/index.shtml>

### SnowSchool

<http://www.snowschoo.com>

### Glacier Power: Earth Sciences Curriculum Element

<http://www.asf.alaska.edu:2222/>

### Simple Snowflake Patterns

[http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/dstredulinsky/kids\\_patterns.html](http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/dstredulinsky/kids_patterns.html)

### Billy Bear's Winter Activities

<http://www.billybear4kids.com/holidays/winter/fun.htm>

### Kids Snow Page

<http://www.teelfamily.com/activities/snow/>

### Rainbow Magic Winter Fun

<http://www.rainbow-magic.com/holidays/winter/>

### Ice and Snow

<http://www.units.muohio.edu/dragonfly/snow/>

### Newest eThemes

#### Animals: Sea Turtles

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000869.html>

These sites have information about different species of sea turtles. Learn about their physical characteristics, behaviors, and habitats. There is also information about the Galapagos Islands and the endangered tortoises that live there. Includes videos, photographs, and an online game.

Literature: "Dear America: Christmas After All" by Kathryn Lasky

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000870.html>

These sites have lessons and activities for this "Dear America" book, plus biographies about author Kathryn Lasky. Includes information about the people and activities that were popular during the Great Depression. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on the 1930s.

Math: Temperature

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000872.html>

These sites explain the Celsius, Fahrenheit, and Kelvin scales for reading thermometers. There are several classroom activities for making thermometers and using them to read temperatures. Includes a temperature conversion chart. Also learn how crickets can be used to predict the temperature.

Updated eThemes

Decade: 1930-1939

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000267.html>

These sites are about the history and events of the 1930s. Learn more about the causes and effects of the Great Depression. There are many primary documents, including oral histories, photographs, newspaper articles, and audio files. Also includes maps and timelines. There are links to eThemes Resources on books set in the 1930s.